

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Coast Guard Academy on its 100 years of operation in New London, Connecticut and in support of H. Con. Res. 258, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Mr. Courtney of Connecticut. Congratulations are due to the Commandant, the Superintendent, dedicated staff, cadets and all graduates of this fine U.S. Service Academy.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy has educated and developed a century of U.S. leaders of character who have led and continue to lead men and women in the Coast Guard's unique role as a multi-mission, maritime military force. I am proud of those Minnesotans from my congressional district who have gone on to become leaders.

The role of the U.S. Coast Guard has grown beyond maritime safety and security. Particularly since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has answered the call to serve our community, country and fellow citizens through critical service in protection of natural resources, management of maritime traffic, commerce and navigation and our national defense.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to submit this statement in honor of 100 years of excellence at the United States Coast Guard Academy. All Americans are fortunate to benefit from the leadership and service of its graduates.